

IN THE TITLE OF THE INVENTION:

Please amend the title of the invention to read as follows:

“DRYING-STORING APPARATUS FOR ~~POWDER~~ POWDERED OR
GRANULAR MATERIAL AND FEEDING SYSTEM FOR ~~POWDER~~ POWDERED OR
GRANULAR MATERIAL”.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2, please amend as follows:

In the field of production system of resin mold, generally applied is a system such that a powdered or granular material is supplied to a dryer from a powdered or granular material (thermoplastic resin pellet) tank and the dried powdered or granular material is pneumatically transported to a supply port (material port) of a molding machine. A feeding system is that the thermoplastic resin pellet as a raw material is sucked to be transported from a stockyard, is collected in a collector, and is supplied to a heating dryer serving as a service hopper which is directly connected to the material supply port of the molding machine. The reference 1 is Utility Model No. 3058779 registered by the present applicant which discloses a pneumatic, automatic and continuous dehumidifying and drying apparatus of powdered or granular material to be used for the above-mentioned feeding system. According to the apparatus, resin pellet is sequentially fed in a molding machine while being dehumidified and dried, thereby largely improving the efficiency of production system of resin mold.

Paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13, please amend as follows:

Now, the feeding and supplying method of dried resin pellet from the drying and storing apparatus A into a molding machine 9 by means of the above-mentioned pneumatic transportation means 7 will be explained hereinafter. The resin pellet per a unit of 25 kg is supplied in the material storage tank 10 of the drying and storing apparatus A. The discharge valve 75a, the electromagnetic valves 71a, 72a, 73a, 74a, and the valve 60a for discharging a residual material are closed, and the storage tank 10 is airtightly kept. The decompression means 5 is operated and the first and second heaters 32, 42 of the heating and drying chamber 2 are also turned on, thereby keeping to heat and dry the resin pellet in the heating and drying chamber 2 and keeping the storage tank being decompressed and vacuumized. Under such circumstance, the vapor generated from the surface of resin pellet is sequentially discharged by means of a decompression means 5.

First full paragraph on page 13, please amend as follows:

The molding machine 9 sequentially molds and process resin into a predetermined shape while falling pellet resin from the collector 76 and the accumulated

amount of resin pellet in the collector 76 is observed by the level gauge 76a. When the level gauge 76a detects the amount becomes lower than a predetermined level, the decompression means 5 is stopped, the open valve 56 is released, and the storage tank 10 becomes at an atmospheric pressure. When the discharge valve 75a is opened and the electromagnetic valve 71a of the transportation line 71 is opened, the resin pellet heated and dried in the heating and drying chamber 2 falls by its gravity in the tubular body 60 of the feeder unit 6 through the discharge port 10a and is sucked in the pneumatic transportation line 75 because of a local negative pressure phenomenon accompanied with the action of suction discharged air from the nozzle 62. Then, by means of the compression feeding action of the discharged air from the nozzle 62, the resin pellet is fed in the air transport pipe 75 to be collected in the collector 76.

First full paragraph on page 14, please amend as follows:

After completing transportation of resin pellet in the pneumatic transportation line 75, the discharge valve 75a and the electromagnetic valve 72a of the blow line 72 are closed. Then the open valve 56 is closed and the decompression means 5 is operated at the same time to make the storage tank [[3]] 10 depressurized and vacuum. After material discharge from the discharge port 10a, resin pellet newly fallen by the gravity in the heating and drying chamber 2 from the hopper chamber [[2]] 1 is heated and dried.

First full paragraph on page 15, please amend as follows:

Sometimes resin pellet is required to be circulated during processing resin mold. For example, when some materials are still stayed more than a predetermined time during heating and drying, bridging phenomenon may be caused. In order to prevent such phenomenon, the material is forcibly circulated to keep moving while staying still more than a predetermined time. In Fig. 4b the circulation line 73 is introduced under the tubular body 60 of the feeder unit 6 so as to discharge a compressed air from the nozzle 64 connected to the circulation line 73. A circulation pipe 77 is connected at the opposite side of the nozzle 64 and its end is introduced at the upper part of the storage tank 10.

First full paragraph on page 16, please amend as follows:

Fig. 5 shows another embodiment of the present invention. A part of the upper end of the open-close cover 11 of the first embodiment is opened and a charge hopper (service hopper) 13 is further provided at the opening via a discharge valve 12. In this embodiment, resin pellet is fed in the charge hopper 13, the discharge valve 12 is opened by hands, and the resin pellet in the charge hopper 13 is fed by the gravity into the hopper chamber [[2]] 1. Unlike the first embodiment, the adjust fastener 11a is not operated and the heavy cover 11 is not lifted, so that material can be fed easily. In case of feeding resin pellet by means of the charge hopper 13, the cover 11 is preferably provided for the maintenance of the tank, however, the discharge valve 12 and the charge hopper 13 may be provided for the hopper chamber without the cover 11. Other constructions are the same as those of the first embodiment and the same members have the same reference numerals to omit their explanation.